



E-NEWSLETTER

<http://www.house.gov/simpson>

4/28/03



Air Force security forces from the United States, Great Britain and Australia work together to ensure the protection of a base at a forward location in Southwest Asia. (DoD photo by Staff Sgt. David Donovan, U.S. Air Force)

What's Up this Week

For the week of May 6, 2003 to May 9, 2003

Tuesday

The House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor and Health and Human Services will hear testimony from members of Congress on funding requests. The hearing begins at 10 a.m. EDT in 2358 Rayburn Office Building.

Wednesday

The House will vote on H.R. 100, the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act. The bill would provide automatic 90-day stays for civil court proceedings, protect families of servicemembers from being evicted due to nonpayment of rent while on active duty, and limit interest to 6 percent on any outstanding loan balances while they remain on active duty.

Thursday/Friday

The House will vote on H.R. 2, the Jobs and Growth Tax Act of 2003. The bill includes all of the elements outlined by the President for his jobs and growth package: acceleration of individual rate cuts, marriage penalty relief, and child care tax credit; additional individual AMT relief; small business expensing; and a dividend tax cut.

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Weekly Website

Happy Mother's Day!
Learn more about this
holiday at:

<http://www.holidays.net/mother>

Federal Facts

75 million women in
America are mothers.

Source: <http://www.infoplease.com>

Idaho History Quiz

Which Idaho gorge is the
deepest in America?

Congratulations to Michael Triggs who answered last week's question correctly. Moses Alexander (1915-1919) was Idaho's first Jewish governor.

Quote of the Week

**"For the hand that rocks
the cradle is the hand
that rules the world."**

— William Ross Wallace

**"All that I am or hope to
be, I owe to my angel
mother."**

— Abraham Lincoln

Simpson Reintroduces Pacific Salmon Recovery Act

For the third time, Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson is introducing legislation to fund salmon recovery in the Pacific Northwest.

The bill, "The Pacific Salmon Recovery Act," would authorize \$250 million a year for three years for the restoration of salmon and steelhead habitat in California, Oregon, Washington, Alaska and Idaho. The bill is sponsored by California Democrat Mike Thompson. Simpson is the lead Republican co-sponsor.

Currently, money is given to states out of the Pacific Coastal Salmon Recovery Fund, but Alaska and Washington share a disproportioned amount of funding. Last year the total amount authorized in the fund was \$90 million. Idaho has never received money out of this fund. Simpson's bill would allow five states to share money equally. Federal funding would be transferred to the Idaho Office of Species Conservation, directed by the Governor's office.

The State receives 85 percent of the money and Native American tribes receive 15 percent. The bill requires that States develop a Salmon Conservation and Restoration Plan. This is an important provision that will ensure that funds are spent according to a publicly-developed plan rather than haphazardly funding projects with little or no coordination. It also requires that State plans have criteria by which the activities funded by this bill can be measured. Under the bill, States should maintain their current levels of funding for salmon recovery activities and not just substitute Federal money for currently funded State salmon programs and use their funds for other priorities.

The House of Representatives has passed similar legislation in the 106th and 107th Congress, but the bill failed to make it through the Senate. This session's bill increases funding from \$200 million to \$250 million, allowing each salmon state to receive \$50 million.

House Votes to Overhaul Special Education Funding

WASHINGTON, D.C. – Idaho Congressman Mike Simpson joined the House of Representatives in passing legislation reauthorizing special education programs for children with disabilities. The bill, “Increasing Accountability and Improving Education Results for Children with Disabilities” (IDEA), overhauls the current system by focusing on academic results versus compliance with complicated rules and paperwork.

“This bill is the most important law for students with disabilities. Prior to 1975, students were denied educational services. IDEA changed the scope of education by including these children in the classroom. This bill keeps the original intent of IDEA, while cutting paperwork, improving diagnosis of children, and ensuring schools and students have the resources they need to succeed,” Simpson said. Specifically, the bill:

Reduces the paperwork burden. The current IDEA system's overwhelming and unnecessary paperwork burden contributes to what is becoming a chronic shortage of quality teachers in special education. This legislation will offer a 3-year Individualized Education Plan (IEP) and create a 10 state pilot program that allows states to reduce paperwork.

Improves early intervention strategies. Currently, too many children with reading problems are being identified as learning disabled and placed in special education classes they do not necessarily belong in. This legislation will give flexibility to local school districts to use up to 15 percent of their funds for pre-referral services for students before they are identified as needing special education.

Supports general education and special education teachers. This legislation will refocus State Professional Development Grants on professional development for school personnel working with students with disabilities; align IDEA with requirements of NCLB for “highly qualified” teachers so that all students with disabilities are taught by a highly qualified teacher in core content areas; and streamline Personnel Preparation programs and encourage training of both special education teachers and regular education teachers to work with students with disabilities.

Restores trust and reduces litigation. Litigation under this Act has taken on more of a role of finding and punishing school districts for technical violations rather than being used to protect the substantive rights of children with disabilities. This legislation will: encourage the use of mediation as early as possible and create opportunities for voluntary binding arbitration; require that complaints be clear and specific when they are filed; and establish a statute of limitations of one year from the date of the violation to file a complaint.

Reforms special education finance and funding. The funding under the Act should be simplified and a clear path created to reach the federal full spending goal of 40 percent. This legislation will simplify funding streams for IDEA Part B Grants to States and establish a clear 7-year path to reach the 40 percent goal of APPE through the discretionary appropriations process.

The bill will now go to the Senate and then to a Conference Committee before heading to the President’s desk. Simpson notes that if parents have concerns about the IDEA reauthorization, there is still an opportunity to be involved in the process.

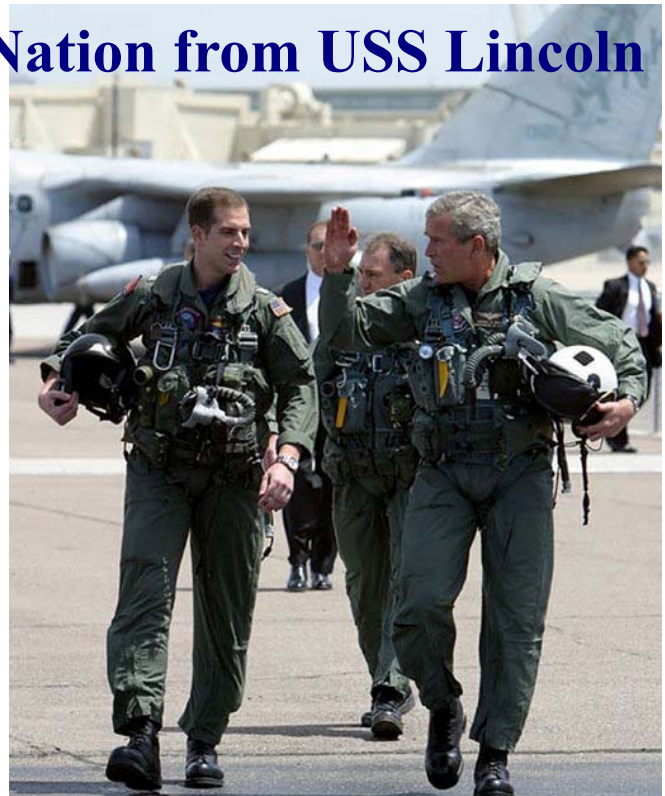
Iraqi Freedom Update

This section gives you the latest war developments from the Department of Defense and perhaps items you won't get from the mainstream media.

President Bush Addresses Nation from USS Lincoln

"In the images of falling statues, we have witnessed the arrival of a new era. For a hundred years of war, culminating in the nuclear age, military technology was designed and deployed to inflict casualties on an ever-growing scale. In defeating Nazi Germany and Imperial Japan, Allied forces destroyed entire cities, while enemy leaders who started the conflict were safe until the final days. Military power was used to end a regime by breaking a nation.

"Today, we have the greater power to free a nation by breaking a dangerous and aggressive regime. With new tactics and precision weapons, we can achieve military objectives without directing violence against civilians. No device of man can remove the tragedy from war; yet it is a great moral advance when the guilty have far more to fear from war than the innocent."



President George W. Bush walks across the tarmac with NFO Lt. Ryan Phillips to Navy One, an S-3B Viking jet, at Naval Air Station North Island in San Diego Thursday, May 1, 2003. White House photo by Susan Sterner

Did you know?

Terrorist attacks around the globe in 2002 were down 44 per cent from the previous year.

There were 199 international terrorist attacks last year, compared to 355 in 2001.

Iraqi Who Led Rescuers to Private Lynch Given Asylum

WASHINGTON, DC — The Iraqi lawyer who led American Marines to prisoner of war Army Pfc. Jessica Lynch has been granted asylum and is safe in the United States with his family.

Mohammed Odeh al Rehaief was visiting his wife, a nurse at the Iraqi hospital in Nasiriyah, when he saw Iraqi agents hitting the badly injured 19-year-old American soldier who had been captured March 23 when her unit made a wrong turn and ran into an ambush. She and five other members of her unit, the 507th Maintenance Company from Fort Bliss, Texas, were captured. Several others were killed.

Rehaief later said in interviews that compassion made him walk several hours to reach U.S. Marines and tell them of Lynch's status and location. He returned to the hospital twice more, gathering information for the rescue mission. U.S. special operations troops launched a successful raid to save Lynch April 1. She is recovering from her wounds at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington. The Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services had granted the family "humanitarian parole" into the country. The agency granted them asylum April 28.